

Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "The Port Passenger Acceleration Service System Program" (RIN1515-AB90); to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2956. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a memorandum of justification to draw down articles, services, and military education and training; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted on September 15, 1997:

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance, discharged pursuant to section 1023 of P.L. 93-344:

S. 1144. A bill disapproving the cancellation transmitted by the President on August 11, 1997, regarding Public Law 105-33.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. D'AMATO (for himself and Mr. SARBANES) (by request):

S. 1179. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KEMPTHORNE (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. REID):

S. 1180. A bill to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KEMPTHORNE:

S. 1181. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide Federal tax incentives to owners of environmentally sensitive lands to enter into conservation easements for the protection of endangered species habitat, to allow a deduction from the gross estate of a decedent in an amount equal to the value of real property subject to an endangered species conservation agreement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. GRAMM):

S. 1182. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to limit consideration of nonemergency matters in emergency legislation and permit matter that is extraneous to emergencies to be stricken as provided in the Byrd rule; to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs, jointly, pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, with instructions that if one Committee reports, the other Committee has thirty days to report or be discharged.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. D'AMATO (for himself and Mr. SARBANES) (by request):

S. 1179. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the National Flood

Insurance Reauthorization Act of 1997 (NFIRA). This legislation provides for a simple and straightforward 5-year extension of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which is scheduled to expire on September 30, 1997. This legislation will ensure that this important program is placed on a steady and secure foundation to continue the invaluable protection it provides to flood insurance policyholders and the Federal taxpayers. I am pleased that my colleague, Senator SARBANES, the distinguished ranking member of the Banking Committee, has cosponsored this measure.

The National Flood Insurance Program, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA], enables over 3.5 million American families to insure their homes and possessions. In my home State of New York, 85,000 families participate in the NFIP. The NFIP allows these families, on Long Island and along the Great Lakes and the State's many rivers, to purchase adequate insurance coverage to protect their homes in the event of a catastrophic flood.

The NFIP employs a comprehensive approach to alleviating the risks posed by catastrophic floods. Floodplain communities participate in FEMA's Community Rating System and are offered incentives to adopt and enforce measures to reduce the risk of flood damage and improve flood prevention building criteria. To avoid the danger of repetitive losses, the program provides stringent building standards, including increased elevation, designed to reduce the risk of future damage. These flood protection standards must be met before any structure which suffers substantial damage may be rebuilt. In addition, persons who receive disaster assistance and fail to subsequently purchase flood insurance are barred from receiving future assistance.

Mr. President, the NFIP plays a critical role in reducing the costs of Federal disaster relief. Current NFIP policyholders pay approximately \$1.3 billion annually into the NFIP fund. Without this premium income, the Federal Government would likely pay spiraling costs in disaster relief. The NFIP has the added benefits of improving State and community planning and Federal support for locally driven disaster prevention and mitigation activities.

Reauthorizing the NFIP is an important step forward in reaffirming the commitment of the Federal Government to help American families protect their homes and to protect the Federal taxpayer from the risks of catastrophic floods. Clearly, we must do more. Lenders and private insurers who participate in the NFIP must do more to ensure compliance. States and local communities must improve their disaster planning, prevention, and response activities. FEMA must redouble its efforts to increase participation in

the program to improve the safety and soundness of the NFIP fund. Also, the Federal Government must do more to prevent and mitigate against the losses which will inevitably occur from future floods.

Mr. President, I note that this bill is supported by the administration. I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of this legislation and I look forward to working with the members of the Banking Committee to ensure a swift and speedy passage.

By Mr. KEMPTHORNE (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. REID):

S. 1180. A bill to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY ACT OF 1997

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, 2 years ago, in Lewiston, ID, as chairman of the Drinking Water Fisheries and Wildlife Subcommittee, I held a hearing to review the current Endangered Species Act and to identify ways to improve the act. It was clear from the testimony we heard that the current law simply is not working. It isn't working for species and it isn't working for people. That message was loud and clear. Senator CHAFEE was there with us at that meeting.

We must do a better job of protecting species without jeopardizing our communities. The legislation that I am introducing today with Senator CHAFEE, Senator BAUCUS, and Senator REID will do just that. It will bring real and fundamental reform to the Endangered Species Act, and it will minimize the social and economic impact of the ESA on the lives of ordinary citizens, and it will benefit species. That is the critical point.

I want to thank Senators CHAFEE, BAUCUS, and REID, who have worked diligently with me as we have crafted this legislation, which brings about balance and a bipartisan approach to a very sensitive issue.

There are over 1,000 species on the endangered species list today but fewer than half of them have ever had a recovery plan written for them. The best evidence that the current law isn't working may be the fact that not a single species has recovered as a result of a recovery plan. It is as if you have a recovery room filled with patients and one by one these patients are brought in, given an examination by the doctor, and at the conclusion of the examination the doctor says, "Yes, you are critical. Next." "What do you mean, next, doctor? What is the prescription? What is the recovery for this critical condition?"

The emphasis has not been on recovery. It has been on continuing to list, list, list, without the emphasis on recovery.